

NOTES

PSILOTUM NUDUM (PSILOTACEAE) IN NORTH LOUISIANA.—On October 27, 1969, *Psilotum nudum* (L.) Griseb. was discovered approximately two miles west of Ruston, Lincoln Parish, Louisiana, on a taxonomy field trip under my direction. This noteworthy find was first observed by Ricky Owens, a member of the class who is a senior wildlife major at Louisiana Polytechnic Institute. It increases the known northern distribution of the plant in Louisiana by approximately 250 miles. Dr. William D. Reese has reported the species from Terrebonne Parish and St. Mary Parish ("Psilotum in Louisiana," Amer. Fern Journ. 50 (4): 269—270, 1960). Dr. John W. Thieret in a telephone conversation reported a collection from Vermilion Parish. It has been noted as a greenhouse adventive in Jefferson Parish and Lafayette Parish (Reese, l.c.; Clair A. Brown and Donovan S. Correll, *Ferns and Fern Allies of Louisiana*, 1942).

Nineteen specimens were counted in a ten yard area at the Ruston site. The plants were growing in sandy humus on the slope of a hill in immediate association with *Botrychium dissectum* var. *obliquum* within a forested area of *Liquidambar styraciflua*, *Sassafras albidum*, *Morus rubra* and *Castanea pumila*. The ecology is noteworthy in that the collecting site is much more upland than the typical bog where one might expect to find *Psilotum*. All specimens were sterile. Two specimens (Rhodes & Owens 7766 and 7767) were placed in the Louisiana Polytechnic Institute Herbarium.—Donald G. Rhodes, Department of Botany and Bacteriology, Louisiana Polytechnic Institute, Ruston, Louisiana 71270.

JUNCUS KANSANUS: A SYNONYM OF *J. BRACHYPHYLLUS* (JUNCAEAE).—Hermann (1935) first described *Juncus kansanus*, distinguishing it from the morphologically similar *J. brachyphyllus* Wieg. by its shorter auricles, narrower leaves, shorter more congested inflorescence, capsule shape, and degree of capsule concealment by the perianth. The description was based upon three specimens from eastern Kansas (Cloud Co.: Concordia, Hitchcock, June 17, 1897 [KSU, holotype]; Cloud Co.: S. V. Fraser 68 [KSU, paratype]; Chautauqua Co.: A. S. Hitchcock, Aug. 8, 1896 [KSU, paratype]), and Steyermark (1963) later added Missouri to the known range.

In examining a number of more recent collections of *J. kansanus* from eastern Kansas I was able to assign all collections to *J. brachyphyllus*. The types of *J. kansanus* are overly ripe with shriveled auricles, and leaves narrowed by involution. Comparison of specimens exhibiting a range of maturation shows that narrowed leaves, shortened auricles, and degree of capsule concealment are dependent upon maturation, whereas the congestion of the inflorescence is variable. Consequently, there are no reasons for considering *J. kansanus* to be distinct from *J. brachyphyllus* and it should be treated as a synonym of the earlier described *J. brachyphyllus*. Hermann, himself, must have had later reservations as to the status of his species as a sheet in the Gray Herbarium (Kansas: Cloud Co.: 6½ mi. s. and 1 mi. w. of Aurora, n.